



Center for Thriving
Communities

A YEAR OF— ACTION

» Background of the Center

In 2022, UF Health Jacksonville and its community partners 904WARD, Hispanic Federation, and Florida Health Justice Project established a statewide center to address the health and the social drivers necessary for communities to achieve the highest levels of health and well-being with a four-year grant from the Florida Blue Foundation.

» How does the Center Serve?

Community Engagement

Listening, learning, and understanding by engaging diverse voices to inform its priorities and action agenda.

Equity Action Labs

Bringing together diverse teams to test ideas and solutions to improve health and social conditions that affect communities' health and well-being.

Follow Up & Sustainability

Providing post-training support and continued engagement, including publishing outcomes and lessons learned through various communication platforms, reports, and community forums.

Training

Offering educational resources and training opportunities while meeting the learning needs of diverse populations.

Community Engagement

Public Health Survey



In 2023, the Center surveyed 999 Floridians, in collaboration with the Public Opinion Research Lab at the University of North Florida, to understand their views on health issues across the state.



Key findings from the survey include:

» Health Information and Resources

Do not know how to access health resources in their community.	17%
Get health information from media sources (internet, social media, television, newspapers).	46%
Get health information from a doctor.	43%

(Figure 6, Page 11), (Figure 7, Page 12)

» Health Care Experiences

Strongly or somewhat agree that they have experienced discrimination in a healthcare setting.	26%
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(Figure 9, Page 13)

» Health and the Environment

Somewhat or strongly disagree that they have clean, clear, and safe drinking water where they live. ¹	11%
Somewhat or strongly disagree that they live in a place that is free from harmful contaminants. ²	20%

¹(Table 2, Page 27), ²(Table 1, Page 28)

» Health and Housing

Somewhat or strongly disagree that they can afford healthy food. ¹	12%
Somewhat or strongly disagree that they have their own stable housing. ²	12%

¹(Table 2, Page 29), ²(Table 1, Page 29).

2023 Center for Thriving Communities' Community Engagement Report.

EMPOWERING
Resources For All



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Listening Sessions



Population	1st Priority	2nd Priority	3rd Priority
Overall (all populations)	Mental health	Housing	Education
Previously incarcerated	Housing	Mental health	Better paying jobs
LGBTQ+	Mental health	Housing	Available resources
Youth	Education	Gun violence	Mental health
Homeless or unstable housing	Housing	Mental health	Better paying jobs
Immigrants/Non-native English speakers	Discrimination	Education	Drug use
African American	Mental health	Housing	Gun violence

Quotes from Listening Sessions

Residents shared their views and experiences on a variety of health and social issues.

"Mental health I think is really important here. I think that contributes to a lot of gun violence and drug use and heart health and crime and safety. So I think mental health is, especially in black communities, I think it's very important. A lot of them is end up being locked up, messed up, or because they need some intervention and they don't have it."

(Maternal African American Population, Mental Health, Pg. 18)

"I was recently ghosted by a therapist because I asked them to use my correct pronouns and then they just canceled all of my sessions."

(LGBTQ+, Discrimination by Health Providers Session, Pg. 21)



Mental Health

"...the public housing that we do have is few and far between, and the wait list ranges anywhere from three to five years. So, we have people living on the streets for three to five years on average."

(General Population, Housing Session, Page 19)



Housing

"They have resources, but they don't let the people know what kind of resources they have. They have 'em but you just don't know nothing about 'em."

(Rural Population, Available Services, Pg. 21)



Available Resources

» Outcomes of Community Engagement

In 2024, the Center launched its Training and Equity Action Lab pillars. An Equity Action Lab is a model that engages community members to address a health improvement goal. These two pillars, initially focused on mental health, the number one priority identified through the Center's 2023 listening sessions.



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